(*b*) *Electrified during* 1956–57—

13 Appamasamudram.
14 Chandragiri.
15 Ichampatti.
16 Malleripatti.
17 Kalichettıyur.
18 Karathuvarajapalayam.
19 Malliakarai (Inam).
20 Mathur.
21 Periakrishnapuram.
22 Seeliampatti.
23 Thandavarayapuram.
24 Thennagadipalayam.
25 Valayamadevi (Panchayat).
26 Vaithiagoundapudur.

II. *In the year* 1957–58 (*up to the end of December* 1957)—

(*a*) *Already electrified as on* 31*st March* 1957—

The 26 villages listed under item I above.

(*b*) *Electrified in* 1957–58 *up to end of December* 1957—

27 Chokkanathapuram.
28 Sovakkaiputhur.
29 Mallaiakarai (Sirkar).
30 Gandipuram.
31 Ammanagar.
32 Arasanatham.
33 Manjini.
34 Kattukottai.
35 Chennakrishnapuram.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE UNDER RULE 40 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *RE* FAILURE OF THE GOEVRNMENT TO SETTLE DISPUTES OF THE WORKERS IN THE STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice under rule 40 from Mr. Kalyanasundaram and Mr. Govindasamy calling the attention of the Hon. Minister for Electricity to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., failure of the Government to settle the disputes between the State Electricity Board and its workers.

SRI A. GOVINDASAMI : சட்டமன்றத் தலைவர் அவர்களே, மின்சாரத் தொழிலாளர்கள் வேலைநிறுத்தம் செய்யப்போகிறோம் என்று நோட்டீஸ் கொடுத்த உடன் கனம் அமைச்சர் ராமய்யா அவர்களும், கனம் அமைச்சர் வெங்கட்ராமன் அவர்களும் இது விஷயத்தில் கொஞ்சம் கவனம் செலுத்தி எதிர் கட்சித் தலைவர்களையும் மின்சார ஊழியர்களையும் வரவழைத்து ஒரு நெகோஷியேஷன் கமிட்டி போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இடைக்காலத்தில் அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு நிவாரணம் அளிக்கின்ற முறையில் அவர்களுடைய அடிப்படை சம்பளத்தை உயர்த்தி தீரவேண்டும். மற்றபடி அவர்கள் கேட்கிற உரிமைகளை கொடுப்பதற்கு ஒரு உத்திரவாதம் அளிக்கின்ற முறையிலும், அவர்களுடைய வேலை பளுவை குறைக்கின்ற முறையில் அவர்களுக்கு உத்திரவாதம் அளிக்கவேண்டும். இவ்விதம் அவர்களுக்கு உத்திரவாதம் அளிக்காமல் இருந்து அவர்கள் இதில் அதிருப்தி கொண்டு வேலை நிறுத்தம் செய்வார்களானால் நமக்கு பெரிய நஷ்டம் ஏற்படும். வேலைநிறுத்தம் இப்போது ஏற்படாதவண்ணம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தலையிட்டு ஒரு நெகோஷியேஷன் கமிட்டி போட்டார்கள்.

இப்போது அவர்களில், வேலையில் இருக்கின்ற நாற்பது ஆயிரம் பேர்களில் பத்தாயிரம் தொழிலாளர்களுக்குத்தான் நிரந்தர வேலையுண்டு. மற்றவர்களுக்கு தற்காலிகமான வேலைதான் இருந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது. ஆகவே, அவர்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் நிரந்தரமான வேலையளிப்பதற்கும், அவர்களுடைய குறைந்த சம்பளத்தைத் உயர்த்துவதற்கும் நிவாரணம் அளிக்கின்ற வகையில் ஏதாவது அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMIAH: Mr. Speaker, prior to the formation of the State Electricity Board, the workmen in the Electricity department were serving under the Government, but from 1st Juy 1957 have become employees of the State. There are about 41,400 workers employed under the Madras State Electricity Board and they are classified into four categories, viz., Operation Subordinate Service (7,700); Work-charged Establishment (1,700); Nominal Muster Roll Workers (22,000); and Casual workers (10,000). While the first two categories are paid monthly, the third category of workers are paid every fortnight, and the casual workers are paid by the day. The workers employed under the Operation Subordinate Service belong to the permanent Service Cadre, while all other workers are employed on a temporary basis. Even among the Operation Subordinate Service Workers, some are still temporary, awaiting confirmation in permanent vacancies.

The conditions of service of Electricity Employees have, in course of time, approximated to those of the employees under the Government and are not comparable to those of industrial employees.

The Madras Electricity Workers' Union, Madras, the Madras Electricity Department Operation and Construction Subordinate Service Association, Mettur Dam, the Madras Electricity Board Employees' Union, Pykara, the Madras Government Electricity Board Employees' Union, Papanasam and the Madras State Electricity Board Employees' Union, Vellore System, issued strike notices, dated 10th February 1958 stating that they will go on strike from 7 a.m., on 11th March 1958 to 7 a.m., on 13th March 1958, if their demands are not complied with. The membership of the first four Unions are respectively 1,788, 932, 427 and 742. The Madras State Electricity Board Employees' Union, Vellore System, is not a registered trade Union.

The demands relate to revision of wages, dearness allowance, permanency, free quarters, free electricity, free uniforms, gratuity, enhancement of the age limit for retirement, provident fund, uniform T.A., and leave rules, National and festival holidays, etc.

The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, held conciliation proceedings of the demands under Section 12 (1) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 on 26th February 1958. The representatives of

the Electricity Board and the workers were present. The Commissioner of Labour could not, however, bring about an amicable settlement. He accordingly submitted a report to Government which was received on 5th March 1958.

As a matter of general policy, the Government prefer settlement of disputes by negotiation wherever possible. In this background, taking into account the special position of the Electricity undertaking as an essential public utility service, the conditions of employment, the nature of demands, the desirability of avoiding greater anomalies than are likely to be solved and the need to promote better relations, the Government felt that the dispute could be resolved by a Negotiating Committee in which the parties and the Commissioner of Labour could be associated.

Accordingly the Government proposed to the Madras State Electricity Board and to the workers, the constitution of a Negotiating Committee to conduct negotiations on the demands of the workers and to arrive at an amicable settlement in the matter. The Government have further discussed the matter with the parties and have appointed a Negotiating Committee under the Chairmanship of Sri M. V. Harihara Iyer consisting of the representatives of the Electricity Board and three representatives of the workers.

The Negotiating Committee has been asked to examine the issues relating to the revision of wages, classification and gradation of workers, D.A., Gratuity, Provident Fund, Permanency, etc., and to endeavour to arrive at an amicable settlement. The Committee has been requested to send its final report containing a Memorandum of settlement and/or its recommendations on the issues referred to it, within a period of two months. The Committee has been requested to send its final report containing a ditiously containing its recommendations on the quantum of interim relief, if any, to be granted to the workers.

In conclusion I would like to thank the leaders of the various parties in the Legislature who took an active interest in the matter with a view to preventing a strike by the Electricity Workers, and effecting an amicable settlement.

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* TAMIL-SINHALESE LANGUAGE CONTROVERSY IN CEYLON.

9-30 a.m. MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from three hon. Members, viz., Sri S. B. Adityan, Sri K. Appavu Pillai and Sri T. Velusamy which states—

"We, the undersigned members propose to move a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose